

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of receiving information concerning a remotely monitored device, the information being contained in a message that also includes a message type designation, the method comprising:

5 parsing a line from the message to extract the message type designation;
 determining a data structure definition based on the message type designation;
 reading data elements from the other lines; and
 inserting the data elements according to the data structure definition.

10 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

 the information is included in an attachment to an email sent from the remotely monitored device; and

 each of the parsing steps include invoking a function within an object-oriented parser class that obtains lines of string data from an object-oriented email processor class that has
15 extracted the string data from the email attachment.

3. A system for receiving information concerning a remotely monitored device, the information being contained in a message that also includes a message type designation, the system comprising:

20 means for parsing a line from the message to extract the message type designation;
 means for determining a data structure definition based on the message type designation;
 means for reading data elements from the other lines; and

means for inserting the data elements according to the data structure definition.

4. The system of Claim 3, wherein:

the information is included in an attachment to an email sent from the remotely
5 monitored device; and

each of the parsing means include means for invoking a function within an object-
oriented parser class that obtains lines of string data from an object-oriented email processor
class that has extracted the string data from the email attachment.

10 5. In a system for remotely monitoring a device, the system including:

A) a receiver manager class, and

B) a data retriever, the data retriever including:

i) a data retriever class,

ii) an email processor, and

15 iii) a parser;

a method of receiving information concerning the remotely monitored device, the information
being contained in a message that also includes a message type designation, the method
comprising:

a) the data retriever class invoking a function in the email processor to read a line and
20 to read other lines from the message;

b) the data retriever class invoking a function in the parser to parse the line of the
message to extract the message type designation;

c) the data retriever class returning the extracted message type designation to the receiver manager class;

d) the receiver manager class determining a data structure definition based on the extracted message type designation and passing the data structure definition to the data retriever class; and

e) the data retriever class invoking a function in the parser to read data elements from the other lines and to insert the data elements according to the data structure definition.

6. The system of Claim 5, wherein:

the message is included in an email message received by a POP3 server; and
the email processor includes functions to interface to the POP3 server.

7. The system of Claim 6, wherein:

the message is included in an attachment to the email.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein:

the attachment is a MIME attachment.

9. A software module for receiving information concerning the remotely monitored device, the information being contained in a message that also includes a message type designation, the software module comprising:

A) a receiver manager class, and

B) a data retriever, the data retriever including:

- i) a data retriever class,
- ii) an email processor, and
- iii) a parser;

wherein:

5 a) the data retriever class is configured to invoke a function in the email processor to read a line and to read other lines from the message;

 b) the data retriever class is configured to invoke a function in the parser to parse the line of the message to extract the message type designation;

 c) the data retriever class is configured to return the extracted message type designation type to receiver manager class;

 d) the receiver manager class is configured to determine a data structure definition based on the extracted message type designation and to pass the data structure definition to the data retriever class; and

 e) the data retriever class is configured to invoke a function in the parser to read data elements from the other lines and to insert the data elements according to the data structure definition.

10. The software module of Claim 9, wherein:

the message is included in an email message received by a POP3 server; and

20 the email processor class includes functions to interface to the POP3 server.

11. The software module of Claim 10, wherein:

the message is included in an attachment to the email.

12. The software module of Claim 11, wherein:
the attachment is a MIME attachment.